

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9588  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1023

EO 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, PINS, NU, HO  
SUBJECT: GOH REPORTS CAPTURE OF THREE SANDINISTAS

REF: 77 TEGUCIGALPA 5710

1. ARMED FORCES COMMUNIQUE DATED FEBRUARY 26 REPORTS CAPTURE OF THREE PERSONS IN LA LODAZA, EL PARAISO DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS NEAR NICARAGUAN BORDER, AND IDENTIFIES THEM AS ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE FSLN. COMMUNIQUE REFERS TO NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN RECENT MONTHS FROM HONDURANS

IN BORDER AREA REPORTING PRESENCE OF "ARMED GROUPS." IT ALSO DESCRIBES DEATH OF BERNABE CORRALES "IN THE LOCALITY OF LAS MESAS DE CACAMUYA, CHOLUTECA DEPARTMENT" DURING ONE SUCH INCURSION BY AN "ARMED GROUP." COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT IN VIEW OF FOREGOING AND THE OBLIGATION OF THE ARMED FORCES TO MAINTAIN SECURITY, PATROLS WERE INCREASED IN THE AREA AND ON FEBRUARY 14 OSCAR BENAVIDES LANUZE, JOSE ALVARO HERNANDEZ CISNE AND MANUEL MAIRENA GUTIERREZ WERE CAPTURED.

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2. COMMUNIQUE THEN EMPHASIZES THAT MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE BORDER AREA ARE NOT THE RESULT OF ANY AGREEMENT WITH "FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS" AND REPEATS GOH DETERMINATION NOT TO PERMIT VIOLATIONS OF ITS SOVEREIGNTY.

3. ALTHOUGH NOT MENTIONED IN COMMUNIQUE, ARMED FORCES COMMANDER IN CHIEF, GEN. POLICAROP PAZ, TOLD MILGROUP COMMANDER

THAT THE THREE SANDINISTAS ARE STILL BEING HELD BY HONDURAN AUTHORITIES

AND WILL BE TREATED ACCORDING TO LAW. PAZ ADDED THAT THE THREE WERE UNARMED WHEN CAPTURED.

4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE GROUP CAPTURED WAS NOT A FSLN PATROL THAT CROSSED THE BORDER INADVERTENTLY, BUT WERE SANDINISTAS SEEKING FOOD AND SUPPLIES. COMMUNIQUE RESPONDS TO CHARGES RECENTLY MADE IN THE ADVISORY COUNCIL BY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES CLAIMING THAT THE GOH WAS COOPERATING WITH THE SOMOZA GOVERNMENT IN OPERATIONS AGAINST SANDINISTAS. REFTTEL DESCRIBED A PREVIOUS INCIDENT INVOLVING A SHOOTING BY AN ARMED GROUP AND WHICH APPEARS TO BE SAME ONE REFERRED TO IN COMMUNIQUE. GOH IN THIS COMMUNIQUE HAS VERY CAREFULLY NOT IDENTIFIED WHO "ARMED GROUPS" ARE, WHETHER FLSN OR GON, AGAIN EMPHASIZING GOH DESIRE NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN SOMOZA'S PROBLEMS, ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER. PAZ'S COMMENTS INDICATE IT VERY UNLIKELY THREE SANDINISTAS WILL BE TURNED OVER TO GON. SUCH A STEP WOULD CAUSE GOH SERIOUS INTERNAL PROBLEMS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014